AP US History

Chapter 29 – Affluence and Anxiety

In 1959, disturbed by the criticism of American society sparked by Sputnik, President Eisenhower appointed a Commission on National Goals “to develop a broad outline of national objectives for the next decade and longer.” Leaders called for increased military spending, greater economic growth at home, broader educational opportunities, and more government support for scientific research and the arts. A renewed commitment to the pursuit of excellence was demanded.

The 1950’s ended with the national mood less troubled than when the decade began amid the second Red Scare and the Korean War, yet hardly as tranquil as Eisenhower had hoped it would be. While the American people felt reassured by the state of the economy, they were aware that abundance alone did not guarantee the quality of everyday life. Furthermore, they realized that there was still a huge gap between American ideals and the reality of race relations, in the North as well as the South.

**Levittown: The Flight to the Suburbs**

1. Why aspects of the Levittowns in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania made the venture successful?

**The Postwar Boom**

1. What two long-term factors contributed to an upward surge in the economy post-WWII?
2. How did the rise of the suburbs and the baby boom result in economic prosperity in the country?
3. Please identify three areas in the economy that struggled despite general economic prosperity.
4. Describe the impact of suburbanization and the nuclear family on feminism and women in general.

**The Good Life**

1. Describe the effects of suburban life with the following categories:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Religion |  |
| Education |  |
| Entertainment |  |

1. After reading “The Reaction to Sputnik” on pages 846-847, please answer the following: Explain the significance of the following two programs passed by Congress in 1958 to address issues raised by Sputnik.
   1. National Defense Education Act (NDEA)
   2. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
2. Describe the content of the works of the following groups critical of the consumer society.
   1. John Keats
   2. David Riesman
   3. C. Wright Mills
   4. The beats

**Farewell to Reform**

1. Describe the three reform measures proposed by Truman in his plan for a New Deal and the respective reasons for defeat.
   1. Medical Insurance

Defeat?

* 1. FEPC

Defeat?

* 1. Federal Education Aid

Defeat?

1. Describe Eisenhower’s position of Modern Republicanism.
2. Describe the significance of the Highway Act of 1956.

**The Struggle Over Civil Rights**

1. Explain the hypocrisy apparent to many Americans in regards to the Soviet Union and the treatment of African-Americans at home.
2. In what areas did Truman succeed in using his executive power to assist African-Americans?
3. Summarize the opinion of Chief Justice Earl Warrant in the 1954 decision in the case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.
4. Describe the series of events surrounding the enrollment of the Little Rock Nine in attending Central High School.
5. Rosa Parks’ arrest sparked a massive protest movement. Explain the goals of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the African-American community of Montgomery during the Montgomery bus boycott.
6. What was the strategy of King and his SCLC in their crusade against segregation?
7. What was the purpose of a “sit-in”?
8. What did these efforts of students ultimately evolve into?